

December 19, 2019

DISSEMINATION BY THE LIVINGSTON GROUP, LLC

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The Livingston Group represents the Ukrainian steel association, Ukrmetalurgprom or "Ukraine Metalurg Prom," in order to advance the bilateral trade relationship between the Governments of the United States and Ukraine.

With regard to steel trade, Ukraine is a good actor globally and bilaterally with the United States. Ukrmetalurgprom is a member of the OECD Steel Committee and is among 16 industry groups working with the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity to effectively address global excess in steelmaking.

In addition to working within the confines of the global steel capacity, the volume of steel from the Ukraine that enters the United States is minimal. As of August 2019, Ukrainian iron and steel imports to the United States account for around one percent of total imports. The percentage is even less when you consider total consumption in the United States. Further, Ukrmetalurgprom member companies exporting to the United States have been and continue to be subject to antidumping duty suspension agreements, through which they have successfully adhered to fair minimum values and volumes determined by the Department of Commerce. The companies also continue to comply with the onerous Section 232 tariffs.

Metallurgy however accounts for 25 percent of production and 300,000 employees within Ukrainian industry. It remains a significant contributor to Ukraine's economic security despite the reduction of steel production since 2014 due to the loss of steelmaking facilities in the Donbass. The metallurgical industry and the Ukrainian economy as a whole remain under constant pressure given the ongoing economic and territorial aggression by Russia.

Congress and the Trump Administration have confronted the continual onslaught to Ukraine and our national security considerations in the region through public support and security assistance. On November 27, the US reaffirmed its “unwavering support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity”. The US also continues to provide critical security cooperation funds to Ukraine for weapons, training, and advisory weapons.

At the UN General Assembly in September the Trump Administration acknowledged the manufacturing capability of Ukraine and the opportunity to do more trading with Ukraine. And in October the new Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine met with the USTR on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank annual board meetings.

Ukrmetallurgprom supports a positive dialogue between the United States and Ukraine on a trade agreement on steel imports to the United States. In the New Year, we hope to keep you apprised of Ukrmetallurgprom and the importance of a positive trade relationship with Ukraine.

THE LIVINGSTON GROUP, LLC PROVIDES REPRESENTATION FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF ENTERPRISES UKRMETALLURGPROM (A UKRAINIAN TRADE ASSOCIATION) IN ORDER TO ADVANCE THE BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND UKRAINE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, DC.